

PROPHETS ORIGIN AND ROLE

I. PROPHETS ARE A RESULT OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- A. Peter 1:21 Holy men of old spoke as moved by the Holy Ghost.
- B. Heb.1:1 God spoke through the Prophets
- C. Eph. 4:1 God set Prophets in the Church, see 1 Cor.12

II. WHY GOD COULD USE THE PROPHETS

- A. God is Omniscient. He is all-knowing.
 - 1. Rom. 4:17 He calls things that are not as though they had already happened.
 - 2. Isa. 46:8,9 God has declared the end from the beginning.
 - 3. John 2:24 Jesus knew all men-He saw Nathanael under the fig tree. John 1:48
- B. God predestinates things and people.
 - 1. Rom. 8:29 Whom He foreknew, He did predestinate.
 - 2. Eph.1:4-11 We are predestinated in Christ.
 - 3. God does not make a person to be saved or lost.
 - a. John 3:16 Whosoever will may come.
 - b. 2 Pet. 3:9 Not willing that any perish.
 - 4. Amos 3:7 What God is going to do, He reveals it through the Prophets.

III. PROPHECY TIES TOGETHER HISTORY AND RELIGION

- A. Prophecy is history before it happens.
- B. God uses prophecy to bring about redemption.
John 4:16-19 Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
- C. God uses prophecy to build FAITH in the people.
Matt. 24:24-26 Act on what you know will happen.

ORIGIN OF THE PROPHETS

I. Why the Prophets were needed

- A. The Fall of Man
 - 1. The first man had direct communion with God.
 - 2. Sin separated man from God. Isa. 59:1,2
 - 3. Israel was afraid of the voice of God. Deut.18:9-22
- B. False Prophets Were in Existence
 - 1. Some believe false religion was started by NIMROD.
 - 2. Moses was challenged by the magicians of Egypt.
 - 3. Elijah contended with the prophets of Baal.
 - 4. King Saul went to the witch of Endor.
 - 5. Today we have palm readers and spiritualists.

II Types of Prophets

- A. Speaking Prophets PRECANONICAL
1. Abel: was the first prophet mentioned by name. Luke 11:49
 2. Enoch: Jude 14
 3. Noah: Heb.11:7
 4. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Gen. 20:7, Ps.105:15
 5. Moses: Deut.18. He wrote history and law.
 6. Aaron: Exodus 7:1
 7. Samuel: I Samuel 3:20; I Sam.10:5 mentions a company of prophets.
 8. Nathan: II Sam. 7:2-17
 9. Elijah: I Kings 6:12; He did seven major miracles.
 - a. II Kings 2:5 notes the sons of the prophets.
 10. Elisha: II Kings 18:26 He performed 14 miracles.
 11. John the Baptist: Mark 11:32
 12. Jesus: John 7:40
 13. Agabus: Acts 21:9,10
- B. Writing Prophets CANONICAL or LITERARY
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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Obadiah - 845 BC | 2. Joel - 835 BC |
| 3. Jonah - 782 BC | 4. Hosea - 760 BC |
| 5. Amos - 760 BC | 6. Isaiah - 739 BC |
| 7. Micah - 735 BC | 8. Nahum - 650 BC |
| 9. Zephaniah - 640 BC | 10. Jeremiah - 627 BC |
| 11. Habakkuk - 608 BC | 12. Daniel - 605 BC |
| 13. Ezekiel - 593 BC | 14. Haggai - 520 BC |
| 15. Zechariah - 520 BC | 16. Malachi - 433 BC |
- C. Prophetesses
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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Miriam - Ex.15:20 | 2. Deborah - Judges 4:4 |
| 3. Hannah - I Sam. 2:1 | 4. Isaiah's wife - Isa. 8:2,3 |
| 5. Huldah - II Kings 22:14 | 6. Noadiah - Neh. 6:14 |
| 7. False prophetess - Ezek.13:17 | 8. Anna - Luke 2:36-38 |
| 8. Elizabeth - Luke 1 | 10. Mary - Luke 1 |
| 10. Philip's daughters - Acts 21:9 | 12. Jezebel - Rev. 2:20 |

THE SOURCE OF UTTERANCE

I. THE REVELATION OF GOD TO MAN

- A. General Revelation of God
1. Rom.1:18-23 Creation is the act of a Supreme Being.
 - a. Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God.
 2. Rom. 2:15 The CONSCIENCE tells us right from wrong.
 - a. Luke 19:22 The unprofitable servant knew better.
 3. Psa.119:105 The Word of God is a lamp to make us see.
 - a. Most of what we know about God is what He has revealed to us by the Word of God, the Bible.
- B. Special Revelation
1. Three things God accomplishes by a special revelation.

- a. He uses it to bring redemption.
 - b. It shows His supernatural abilities.
 - c. It gives us facts to guide us correctly.
- 2. Examples of a special revelation
 - a. Visions Isa. 6:1-9, Ezek.1:1
 - b. Dreams Gen. 28:12-1 B, Gen. 40:8
 - c. Theophanies Gen.18:17, Joshua 5:13-15
 - d. Urim & Thummim Ex. 28:30, Num. 27:21, I Sam. 28:6, Joshua 7:14, Ezra 2:63
 - e. Miracles I Kings 18:39
- 3. God can speak to our minds.
 - a. Jesus opened their understanding Luke 24:45
 - b. I show you a mystery I Cor.15:51
 - c. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:29
- 4. God can send an angel to enlighten us.
 - a. Lot in the city of Sodom Gen.19:15
 - b. Philip the Evangelist Acts 8:26
- C. Inspiration - II Tim. 3:16
 - 1. Definition: The divine influence of the Holy Ghost that enabled men to write the Scriptures.
 - a. The literal meaning of inspiration is "God breathed", which shows His creative abilities.
 - 2. God put words in the prophet's mouth.
 - a. David II Sam. 23:2
 - b. Balaam Num.22:38
 - 3. God told men to write.
 - a. John Rev.1:10,11
 - b. Habakkuk Hab.2:2
 - 4. God gave the thoughts, but men put them into their own choice of words.
 - a. The Four Gospels of the same story
 - b. New Testament quotes from the Old Testament.

THE MINISTRY OF THE PROPHETS

I. THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD PROPHET

- A. A SPOKESMAN for God Exodus 4:16
- B. Other terms: Seer, Man of God, Servant of the Lord, Messenger of the Lord.

II. THE THREE TYPES OF MINISTRY :

- A. A Preacher of Righteousness
 - 1. Isa. 58:1 show the house of Jacob their sins.
 - 2. Mal. 4:4 remember the law of Moses.
 - 3. Jer. 2:13 my people have committed two evils
 - 4. Ezek. 2:3-5 I send you to a rebellious nation.
- B. Foreteller of Future Events
 - 1. Isa. 53 Predicted the coming Messiah
 - 2. Jer. 29:10 Made known the captivity of Judah
 - 3. Hos. 6:1,2 Spoke of God's disfavor with Israel.
 - 4. Jer. 30:7 Foretells the coming Tribulation
 - 5. Zech.14:12-14 The Battle of Armageddon
 - 6. Isa.11:6-11 Gives a picture of the Millennium.

- C. To Oppose False Prophets and False Doctrine
 - 1. I Kings 18:40 Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
 - 2. Ezek. 3:17-18 Ezekiel set as a WATCHMAN.
 - 3. Matt. 7:15 Jesus warned of false prophets.
 - 4. Exo. 22:20 Moses delivers the Laws of God.
 - 5. II Pet. 2:1 A warning against false prophets.

III. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROPHETS AND THE PRIESTS

- A. The Priests Had Two Functions
 - 1. To offer sacrifices
 - 2. To offer intercession
- B. A Person Could Be Both Prophet and Priest
 - 1. Aaron Exodus 7:1
 - 2. Samuel 1 Sam. 3:20
 - 3. Jeremiah Jer.1:1
 - 4. Ezekiel Ezek.1:3

TESTING TO DISCERN TRUE FROM FALSE PROPHETS

I. DID THE PROPHECY (PREDICTION) COME TO PASS?

- A. History Confirmed the True Prophecy
 - 1. Deut.19:21,22 It was not from God if it didn't come to pass.
 - 2. Jer. 28:15-17 Jeremiah versus Hananiah.
 - 3. 1 Kings 22:7-35 Micah versus the false prophets.
 - 4. Jonah 4:1-3 Jonah didn't want to be a false prophet.

II. WAS IT SPOKEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD?

- A. Some Spoke In The Name of Other Gods Deut 13:1-5
 - 1. Considered an impostor if one tried to lead people away from Jehovah.
- B. Some False Prophets Spoke In The Name of the Lord
 - 1. I Kings 13:1-24 Old prophet lied to the Man of God
 - 2. Jer. 29:8,9 Some shall speak falsely in my name.
- C. The True Prophecy must pass every test.

III. WHAT IS THE PERSONAL, MORAL BEHAVIOR OF THE PROPHET?

- A. Matt. 7:15-20 By their fruits shall ye know them.
- B. II Pet.1:21 Holy men spoke for a Holy God.

IV. WAS THE PROPHECY SPOKEN BY REVELATION OR WRITTEN BY INSPIRATION?

- A. Num.12:6 God to give the prophet a vision or a dream.
- B. Deut 18:10 False if uses divination or sorcery.

V. DID THE PROPHET HAVE THE CALL OF GOD?

- A. Examples of the call of God
 - 1. Isa. 6:8 Isaiah, here am I send me.
 - 2. Jer.1:5 Jeremiah, called before he was born.
 - 3. Amos 7:14 Amos, called from being a herdsman.

- 4. Ex. 3:10 Moses, at the burning bush.
- 5. I Sam. 3 Samuel, heard the call from God as a child.

VI. DID THE MESSAGE CONTRADICT OR CONFIRM OTHER PROPHECIES?

- A. Jer. 26:18 Jeremiah confirmed Micah's prophecy.
- B. Mat.1:22 Isaiah's prophecy could not be contradicted.

VII. MIRACLES CONFIRMED SOME PROPHETIC MESSAGES

- A. I Kings 18:38,39 Elijah and the fire from heaven.
- B. Ex. 7:10-12 Moses before Pharaoh.
- C. Miracles alone are not proof of a true prophet.
 - 1. Acts 8:9-11 Simon the sorcerer.
 - 2. The magicians of Egypt duplicated Aaron's feats.

VIII. DID THE MESSAGE MUST PASS THE JUDGMENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE?

- A. Deut.18:15-19 Discernment by hearers.
- B. John 7:17 The believer shall know the doctrine
- C. I Cor.14:29 Others to judge the prophecy.

IX. SEVEN MAJOR PROPHETIC CONCERNS

- A. Coming of Messiah
- B. Restoration of Israel
- C. Day of the Lord [Jacob's Trouble = Tribulation]
- D. Outpouring of Spirit [Pentecost]
- E. Gentiles in the church and Millennium [Mystery in Ephesians 1,3]
- F. Resurrection of the dead [body]
- G. Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on the Throne of David